

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) said the last thing the struggling U.S. economy can absorb right now is new taxes on gasoline and energy use.

Bachus today voted to block new energy taxes that would be imposed as a result of greenhouse gas regulations being developed by the Obama Administration. The Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011, which cleared the House on a vote of 255-172 with Bachus' support, would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing the costly new climate change regulations.

“This is no time for the EPA to overreach and make energy more expensive. Consumers are already getting hit hard at the gasoline pump and businesses cannot afford the added cost to their bottom line. Manufacturers in Alabama would be negatively affected by regulations that would make using coal more expensive because that is a primary fuel for our electric plants. Alabama would become less competitive and lose jobs not only to other states but to countries like China and India,” Bachus said.

During the previous session of Congress, Bachus voted against legislative imposition of a “cap and tax” scheme.

Bachus said the EPA has displayed a pattern of regulatory overreach. He said that has met recently with many mayors, business owners, and farmers in the Sixth District who have expressed concern about the cost and inflexibility of the agency's rules and mandates.